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SUCCESS OF NANKING ELECTRON APPARATUS FACTORY

- COMMUNIST CHINA -

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SUCCESS OF NANKING ELECTRON APPARATUS FACTORY

[The following is a full translation of an article in Chin-jih Hsin-wen (Today's News), No. 3431 Peiping 15 Nov 1959, pages 1 and 2.]

(New China News Agency, Nanking 14 Nov 59.) The Nanking Electronic Tubes Factory has adopted the method of "not only holding the big water melon, but also grabbing the small sesame," and has launched a mass movement for technical reform in which everybody uses his head, everybody devises some measures, and everything undergoes renovation.

Some time ago, certain workers in this factory held the view that "small reforms do not produce great results," and they were not interested in renovations which only raise work efficiency one or two times. Every one wanted to have a hand in the promotion of automation, in reform activities that would raise work efficiency scores of times, or even hundreds of times.

There were some who held the view that "production task being so tense as it is, there is no time to spend of reforms." The apprentices held that their "technical capacity is not good enough yet for them to take part in carrying out reforms."

Taking into account directly these ideological situations,

the Party committee of the factory acted to achieve ideological enlightenment among the workers by using such methods as laying down facts, making minute calculations and holding meetings for the interchange of experiences. It pointed out to the workers the right direction to technical renovation with simultaneous attention to big, medium size and small reforms.

Chang T'ie-jung, of the manual operations installation team in number three workshop, introduced an improvement in the welding process for special covers separating the tubes, and raised work efficiency by 10 percent. At first glance the improvement seemed of little significance. However, when it was universally popularized, efficiency for each working process was raised by 10 percent, so that the output of tubes each day was increased by more than 550, valued at more than 10,000 yuan.

The veteran workers of the tools workshop introduced a new method, using silver ingots, in processing certain accessories of some products. Though this raised work efficiency only by 50 percent, the life of the molds was also increased by 50 percent, and the use of steel was economized by about one-third.

When all these various "small" reforms were minutely added up, the workers realized that the role of these "small" renovations was not "small". They began to understand the truth that a number of small reforms added together becomes a big renovation. One worker even wrote a poem about it:

"In promoting reform, when our goals are too lofty,
We achieve nothing and lose confidence.
But when we concentrate on the work processes,
We break down superstition and find new ways.
The flowers of reform blossom all over.
The production index climbs up steadily."

After thus mobilizing the activism for technical reform among the workers of the whole factory, the Party committee further pointed out to them that in the promotion of reforms of working schedules, tools, equipment, craftsmanship, operations, and the adjustment of labor organization, so long as production is benefitted, even if a measure introduced raises efficiency by only 10 percent, it would still be an improvement.

As a result, the whole factory very rapidly developed a high tide in the "four comparison" emulation drive. The comparisons were of increases of efficiency, times taken for the realization of results, expenditures in improvements, and the final results. Enthusiasm for technical reform was aroused among all. In October 1959, nearly 60 percent of the apprentices in the factory had one or two reform items each to their credit.

As the wave of the mass movement for technical reform swept over the whole factory, the leadership presented to the workers new reform problems in accordance with the special production characteristics, setting forth month by month the

key technical issues to be tackled by the whole factory. Special stress was laid on the work connected with the assembling of parts into whole sets, so that both the larger and the smaller renovations could develop their role at the same time.

In 1958 the workers had successfully manufactured an automatic machine for the sealing of cathode tubes. This would raise work efficiency 20 times and economize labor power to the extent of 35 workers. But at the time this machine could not be put into use because they lacked a machine for the selection of materials. In 1959 the workers further intensified their efforts and succeeded in producing the materials selection machine. So the automatic machine for cathode tubes was immediately put into use.

The workers, resorting to the "three combination" method, also successfully manufactured an automatic all-purpose bending machine which replaces a very complicated accessory that was used in working with the lathe. This raised work efficiency by 86.4 times.

A weak link in the factory was the lack of equipment for grid winding. To overcome this the workers of number six workshop succeeded in producing a grid winding machine. As a complement to this equipment, the workers of the tools workshop successfully manufactured a mold of hard alloy and high quality gauze [kao sha]. The life of the mold for the winding grid was increased by 108 times.

As the result of the extensive mobilization of the activism of the masses of the workers for technical reform, during the two months of September and October 1959, more than 20,000 proposals on reform were brought forward in the factory. More than 5,000 of these proposals have been realized. This number is more than twice the sum total of reform proposals carried out during the period from January through August 1959.

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